

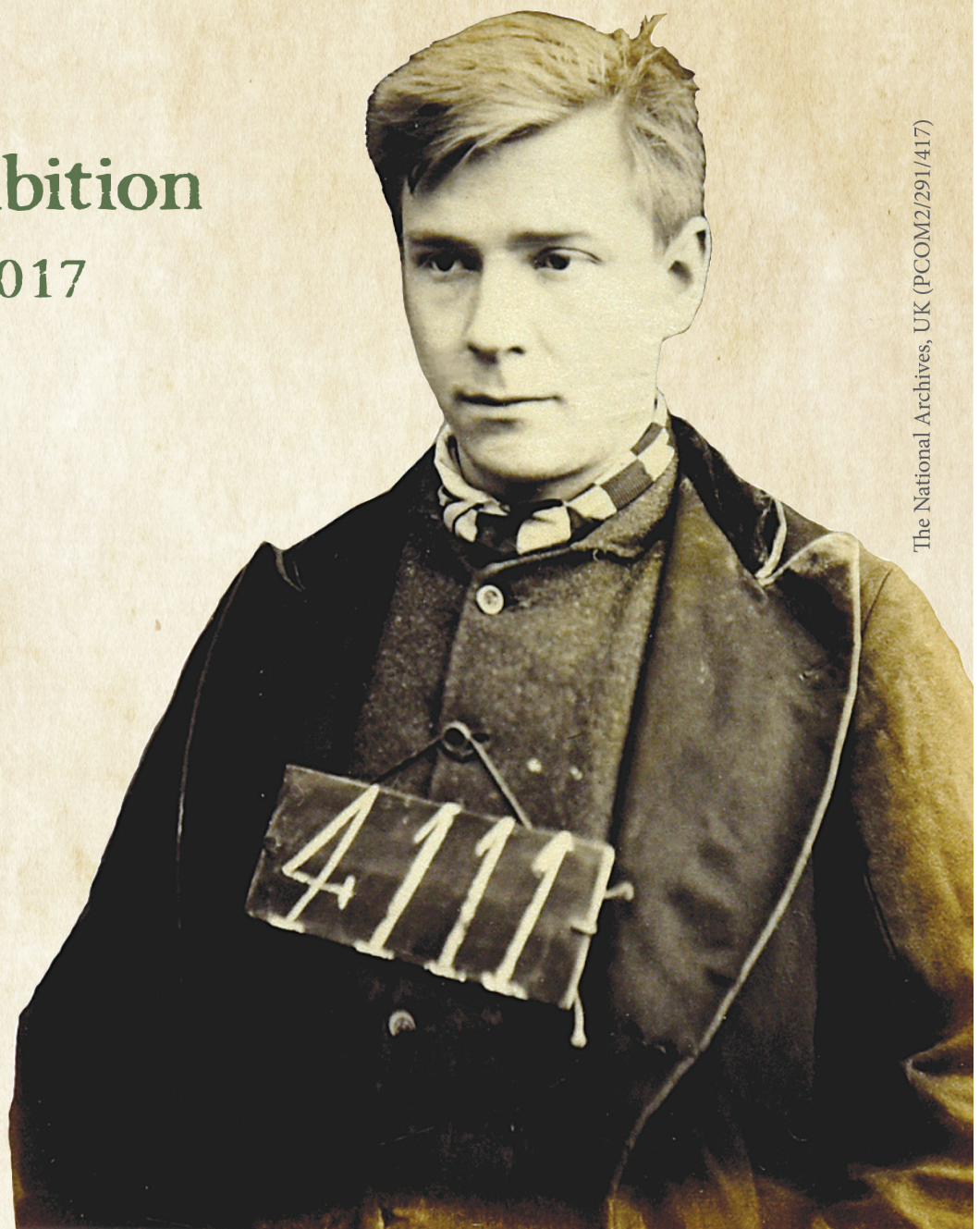
Criminal Lives, 1780-1925:

Punishing Old Bailey Convicts

FREE Exhibition

11 December 2017

- 16 May 2018



The National Archives, UK (PCOM2/291/417)

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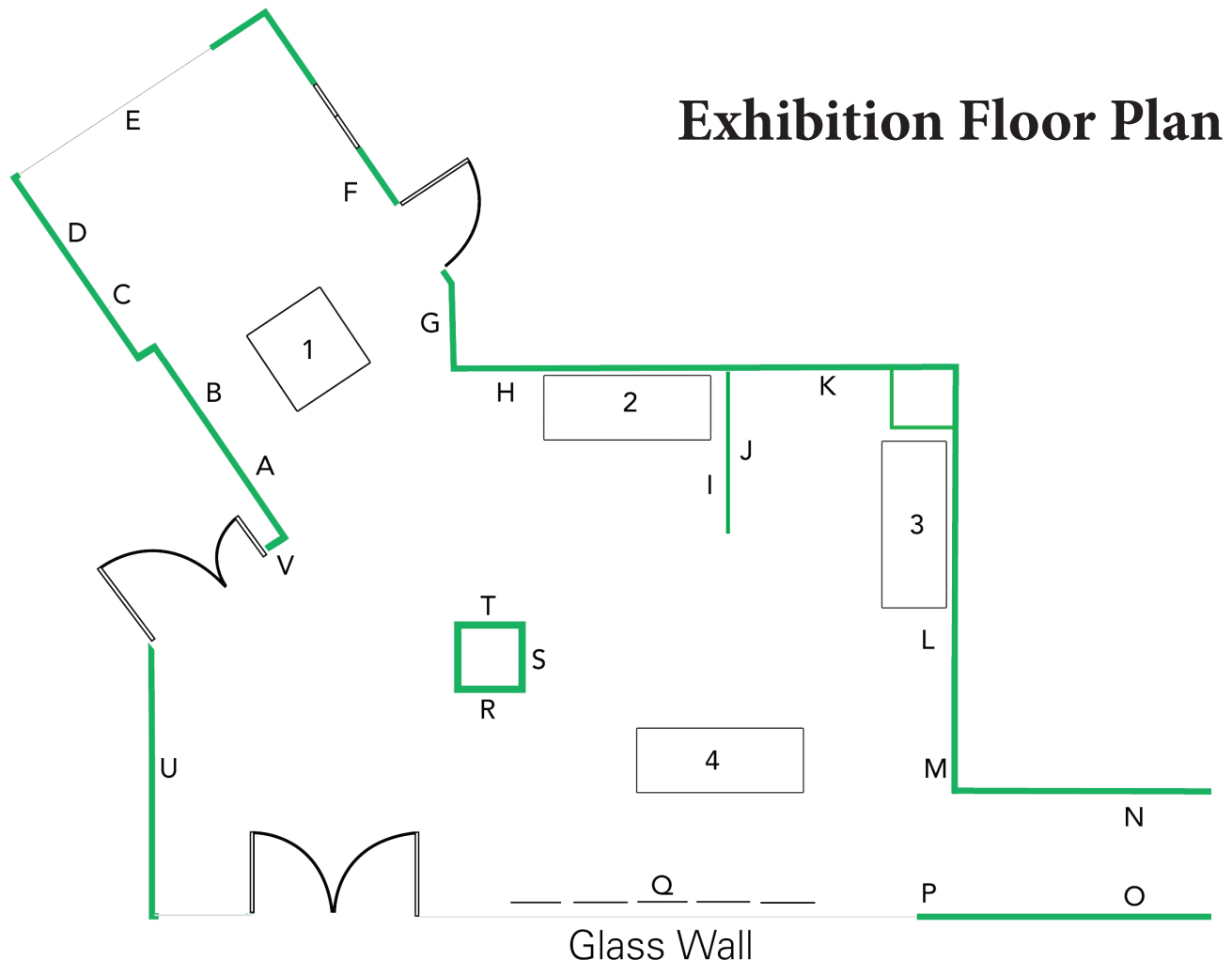


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Digital Panopticon
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Criminal Lives, 1780-1925: Punishing Old Bailey Convicts

Between 1700 and 1900 the British government stopped punishing the bodies of London's convicts and increasingly sought to exile them and/or reform their minds. From hanging, branding and whipping the response to crime shifted to transportation and imprisonment. By the nineteenth century, judges chose between two contrasting forms of punishments: exile and forced labour in Australia, or incarceration in strictly controlled 'reformatory' prisons at home. This exhibition, based on material from London Metropolitan Archives and the AHRC funded Digital Panopticon research project, traces the impact of punishments on individual lives. It follows the men, women and children convicted in London from their crimes and trials through to their experiences of punishment and their subsequent lives.



WALL A - POLICING AND ARREST

The path to the Old Bailey started with the apprehension of a suspect by the victim of a crime, passers-by, or an agent of the law. In the eighteenth century policing was a community affair, with everyone obliged to respond to a cry of 'stop thief' or 'murder' by seizing the culprit. There were also parish constables and night watchmen, often made up of unwilling and unpaid householders serving by rotation, who served warrants and arrested suspicious loiterers. A professional police force evolved only gradually, from the establishment of the Bow Street Runners in 1753 and the Marine Police Force in 1798 to the creation of the Metropolitan Police in 1829. The first designated 'detective' force was created in 1842.

What happened following arrest changed too. In the eighteenth century you would be interviewed in the front room of the home of a local justice of the peace before being committed to Newgate Prison. By the second half of the nineteenth century a comprehensive system of police courts had been created, complete with sitting magistrates and holding cells.

Arrest of a Woman at Night by Thomas Rowlandson, c.1800

The Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London, UK

WALL B - TRIALS AT THE OLD BAILEY

The eighteenth- and nineteenth-century criminal trial was very different to its modern descendant. Trials at the Old Bailey, renamed the Central Criminal Court in 1834, were short (one 1831 estimate suggests that the average trial was only eight minutes long), and often did not involve legal counsel, as defendants were forced to plead their own case in intimidating circumstances. Rebuilt between 1774 and 1780, the courtroom increasingly took on the feel of a theatre, with steeply banked levels, and a public audience looking down from above. Trial reports were routinely published in the Old Bailey *Proceedings*.

Interior View of the Sessions House, Old Bailey by Augustus Pugin and Thomas Rowlandson, 1809

LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 5595)

Title Pages from the Old Bailey *Proceedings*, April 1781 and May 1868

Old Bailey Proceedings Online

CASE 1 - CHARLOTTE WALKER

Charlotte Walker was a prostitute and pickpocket who was repeatedly arrested over 24 years. Tried 12 times at the Old Bailey, she was skilled at avoiding conviction and serious punishment. She was finally convicted and transported in 1800, in part because her earlier crimes had been identified in the newly-created 'Criminal Register'. She arrived in Sydney in 1801, lived as a concubine with a craftsman, and was given a ticket of leave shortly before her death.

Old Bailey *Proceedings*, April 1781

LMA City of London Sessions CLA/047/LJ/15/01/003

Middlesex Commitments to Newgate Prison, January 1780

LMA City of London Sessions CLA/047/LJ/13/1780/001

Information of John Grimes, Benjamin Newman and George Henry Mortimer, 13 August 1787

LMA Middlesex Gaol Delivery Sessions at the Old Bailey post 1754 OB/SP/1787/09/034

Steel handcuffs, stamped with the impression 'HIATT'

Museum of London

Convict Love Tokens

Timothy Millett Collection

Constable's Truncheon, c.1800

On loan from Hamish Maxwell-Stewart

WALL C - CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The pre-modern judicial system relied on punishments to the body. The infliction of pain was seen as the quickest and most efficient means of achieving the main purposes of punishment, deterrence and retribution. Punishments were conducted in public in order to maximise their impact in preventing crime.

The death penalty stood at the apex of the penal system throughout this period, and until the 1790s dozens of Old Bailey convicts were executed each year, primarily by hanging, in public at Tyburn (where Marble Arch is now located). For the most serious crimes the state invented more brutal methods of execution.

Over the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries these punishments were largely replaced by transportation and imprisonment, which focused on exiling and/or reforming the convict. Where corporal punishments were still used their locations were changed to reduce the potential for disorder.

Mode of punishment by branding or burning on the hand, [n.d.]

LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 5589)

The Reward of Cruelty by William Hogarth, 1751

LMA Hogarth Collection (Collage 25118)

The Last Dying Speech... of the Two Malefactors Executed this Day before the Debtor's Door, Newgate, 1797

The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, UK (Harding B9 (22))

Man publicly whipped in the Sessions House in the Old Bailey [n.d.]

LMA Metropolitan Print Collection (Collage 318674)

WALL D - THE CRISIS OF THE 1780S

Following the American Revolution in 1776, Britain's most frequent punishment, transportation to North America, ceased to be viable. As a stopgap solution, 'hulks', or prison ships, were created to hold the excess convicts. Nevertheless London's prisons soon became profoundly overcrowded - a situation that was brought to crisis point in June 1780, when the week-long Gordon Riots destroyed prisons and threw the capital into chaos.

Over 2,000 prisoners were released onto the streets, and the Bank of England was repeatedly attacked. In the aftermath of the riots London became a military encampment, and

a desperate search for some new way of dealing with the men and women found guilty at the Old Bailey began.

The first option was to simply hang them, and in 1785 96 men and women met this fate, the largest number in any year in the eighteenth century. But worries about the consequences of a bloodbath prompted the government to look for other alternatives. It tried transporting criminals to the west coast of Africa, before finally deciding to send them to Australia. The First Fleet departed in May 1787.

An Execution Outside Newgate Prison by Thomas Rowlandson, c.1806
© **Museum of London, UK**

A March to the Bank by James Gilray, 1787
© **Trustees of the British Museum, UK**

Register of prisoners in Newgate Prison, February 1798
The National Archives, UK (HO 26/6 Criminal Register, February 1798, f.114)

WALL E – THE DESTRUCTION OF NEWGATE PRISON DURING THE GORDON RIOTS, 1780

At the height of the American Revolution, 40,000 members of the Protestant Association, led by Lord George Gordon, marched on Parliament in an attempt to force the repeal of an Act providing limited toleration for Catholics. During the following week London descended into chaos, resulting in almost 300 dead, and hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage. The riots began as an explosion of anti-Catholicism, but their objective rapidly turned first to the prisons, and then to the Bank of England.

Attacks on the home of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Mansfield, and on Sir John Fielding's magistrates' court in Bow Street on the evening of 6 June, were followed by a direct attack on Newgate Prison, newly rebuilt to a design by George Dance. The rioters burned it to the ground and released over 300 prisoners, before moving on to the capital's other prisons and lock-ups.

Over the next two days, the Bank of England was repeatedly, if unsuccessfully stormed, and central government declared what amounted to martial law. Bringing up 12,000 troops from across the country to restore order, the authority of the Lord Mayor and local magistrates was over-ruled, and London became an armed encampment with every park and open space commandeered.

At least 80 rioters were eventually hanged, and the crisis of prisons and punishment created by the end of transportation to North America was made infinitely worse.



The Destruction of Newgate Prison during the Gordon Riots, 1780
LMA Metropolitan Print Collection (Collage 320770)

WALL F - CRIMINAL TRANSPORTATION

Sentencing criminals to exile was a traditional punishment going back to the classical world, but from 1718 Britain developed a systematic process for 'transporting' convicts 'beyond the seas', primarily to the middle colonies of North America, notably Maryland and Virginia. In total, around 70,000 male, female and child convicts were transported by independent contractors and sold into indentured servitude, normally for seven or fourteen years. With the American Revolution in 1776, this became unviable and alternative destinations for transportation were sought. Britain first tried to establish a prison colony on the west coast of Africa, but when this failed, it turned to Australia.

This state-managed system of penal servitude rapidly became a major component of the growing British Empire, with penal colonies established in Bermuda, the Andaman Islands, and the Indonesian archipelago including Singapore. Between them, these less well known prison colonies received over 100,000 convicts, drawn largely from the populations of Britain's overseas colonies. During the same period Australia received over 163,000 convicts, mainly from Britain and Ireland. Criminal transportation to Australia was abandoned in 1868, but continued in the wider British Empire until 1939.

Punishment Summary, *The Old Bailey Proceedings*, 23 February 1785
Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org/), s17850223-1

Island of Gorée and its fortifications by Jacobus van der Schley, c.1770
Maps & Imagery Library, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, USA

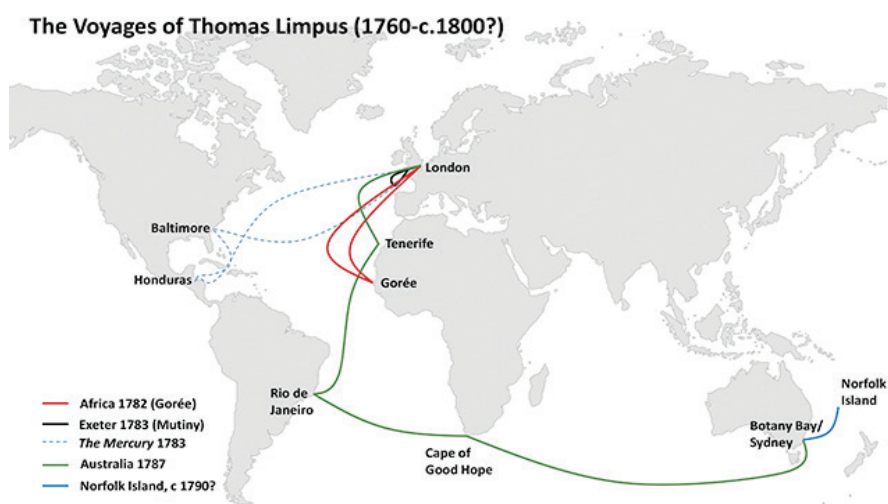
Birthplaces of transported convicts in urban London, 1780-1830
Heat map created by Imogen Wegman and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart

Punishment Summary, *The Old Bailey Proceedings*, 22 April 1789
Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org/), s17890422-1

WALL G - THE CRIMINAL LIFE OF THOMAS LIMPUS, 1760-C.1800

Born into a pauper family and first convicted of theft at the age of 17 in 1777, Thomas Limpus was an active agent in the reconfiguration of British punishment following the end of transportation to America. After several stints in London's hulks and prisons, he was part of the ill-fated attempt to transport convicts to Africa.

After returning to London and being convicted of the offence of returning from transportation, he mutinied on a transport ship destined for America (escaping from the ship off the coast of the Scilly



Map created by Tim Hitchcock and Seamus McKenna

Isles) and attempted to escape from a hulk. He was finally successfully transported on the First Fleet in 1787 to New South Wales and then Norfolk Island.

Thomas Limpus's 'Life Archive'
Digital Panopticon (www.digitalpanopticon.org)

Relief Guard arriving at a Prison Hulk, Deptford by E. Tucker, 1821
National Library of Australia, AU (obj-135224582)

Town by D.T. Egerton, 1823
LMA Satirical Print Collection (Collage 34865)

CASE 2 - THOMAS LIMPUS

Gaol Delivery Roll, with prison calendar indicating the charge against Thomas Limpus, September 1783

LMA Middlesex Gaol Delivery Sessions at the Old Bailey post 1754 OB/SR/222

Indictment of Thomas Limpus for Returning from Transportation, September 1783
LMA Middlesex Gaol Delivery Sessions at the Old Bailey post 1754 OB/SR/222 (indictment 114)

Middlesex Judgement Paper, September 1783
LMA Middlesex Gaol Delivery Sessions at the Old Bailey post 1754 OB/SP/1783/09/078

WALL H - TRANSPORTATION TO AUSTRALIA

From 1788 until 1868, 163,000 convicted men, women and children from Britain were transported to Australian convict colonies in Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land), New South Wales, Queensland, Norfolk Island and Western Australia. Subject to forced exile and compulsory labour in the colonies, many convicts feared punishment by brutal flogging and other forms of corporal punishment. This was particularly true of the period following the recommendations of the Bigge Reports (1822-1823), which favoured forced labour and severe punishments in contrast to the more pro-convict emancipation policies of Governor Macquarie (1810-1821).

Nonetheless, the status of being a convict was temporary for most of those transported. On release, many former convicts were able to benefit from opportunities, particularly in growing areas of the Australian economy such as crop farming and the wool trade. Newly released convicts also gained from the availability of food and higher wages, driven up by labour shortages. However, the relative scarcity of women in the colony made a 'conventional' family life an unrealised aspiration for many male transportees.

This is only one side of the story. Frontier violence, Aboriginal demographic catastrophe and indigenous land dispossession without treaty or compensation were also parts of this history. Transportation's system of colonial punishment, reform and imperial economic success ultimately came at a high cost to the diverse Aboriginal communities of Australia.

The Founding of Australia by Algernon Mayew Tarnage, [n.d.]
Guildhall Art Gallery, City of London, 1325 (Collage 11394)

Australian Aborigines slaughtered by convicts. Illustration from *The Chronicles of Crime or the New Newgate Calendar. A series of memoirs and anecdotes of notorious characters who have outraged the laws of Great Britain from the earliest period to the present time*, written by Camden Pelham (Pseudonym), 1887

***The Chronicles of Crime or The New Newgate Calendar vol.II* by Camden Pelham, 1887.
LMA library 21.1 PEL**

WALL I - TALES OF CONVICT LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

The experience of convicts in Australia ranged from work on isolated farmsteads to internment in penal labour camps. It also varied over time, as Australia evolved from a military-run penal colony to a settler colony during the first half of the nineteenth century. The materials presented here reflect both fictionalised memories of criminal transportation, which emphasised the cruelty of the system, and, in the life of William Buckley, a fascination with encounters between criminal transportees and Aboriginal peoples.

For the Term of His Natural Life directed by Norman Dawn, 1927

Australasian Films

William Buckley by unknown artist (previously attributed to Ludwig Becker), c.1890-1910
Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria, AU (H30879)

Buckley's Escape by Tommy McRae, c.1890

National Museum of Australia, AU

The Prison Colony at Port Arthur, by J.W Beattie, 1860

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, AU (PXA 609/30-55, No. 33)

Convicts letter writing at Cockatoo Island, New South Wales. "Canary Birds" by Philip Doyne Vigers, 1849

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, AU (SSV/39)

WALL J – ISAAC (IKEY) SOLOMONS, C.1785-1850

A notorious receiver of stolen goods, Ikey avoided a second Old Bailey trial when he escaped and journeyed to New York and then Tasmania to join his wife Ann, who had been transported. Eventually brought back to London, his Old Bailey trial caused a sensation. Convicted, he was then transported back to Tasmania, where, separated from his wife, he opened a shop and spent the remainder of his life.

The extensive documentation kept of his time in Tasmania has made it possible to compile a full 'life archive' in the Digital Panopticon.

Jew King, Lady Lexenborough, Officer & Ikey in the Area at Fitzroy Square, 1829

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, AU (DSM/A923.41/S)

Side view of Isaac Solomons' shop in Elizabeth Street, Hobart, [n.d.]

Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, AU (PH30/1/700)

Adventures, Memoirs, Former Trial, Transportation, & Escapes of that Notorious Fence, and Receiver of Stolen Goods, 1829

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, AU (DSM/A923.41/S)

Conduct Record of Isaac Solomon [sic], 1830-44

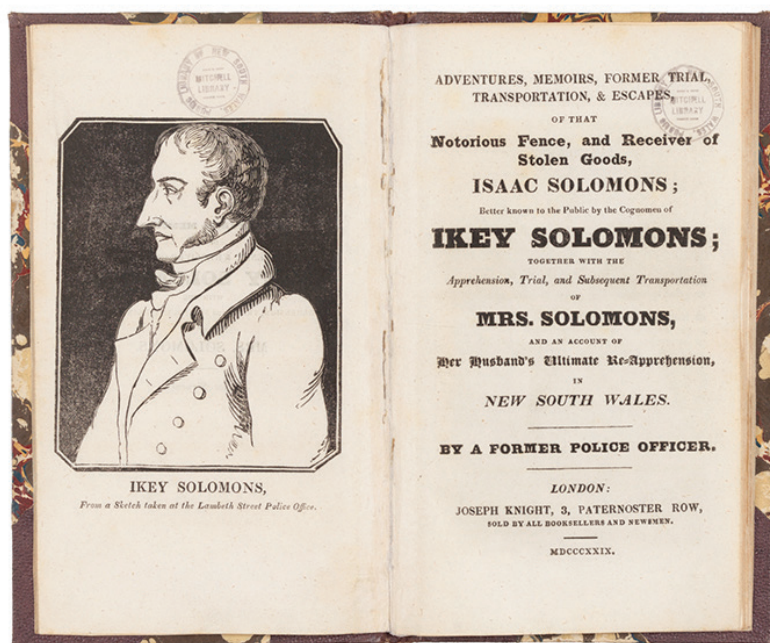
Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, AU (CON31-1-39)

Isaac Solomons' 'Life Archive'

Digital Panopticon (www.digitalpanopticon.org)

Physical description of Isaac Solomons, 1831

Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, AU (CON-18-1-21)



Adventures, Memoirs, Former Trial, Transportation, & Escapes of that Notorious Fence, and Receiver of Stolen Goods, 1829

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, AU (DSM/A923.41/S)

WALL K – THE HULKS AND THE UNREFORMED PRISON

The purpose of the traditional prison was simply to hold criminals until their trials or punishments could take place. There was little effort to reform them, and, since prisons were run by the gaolers as private businesses, conditions were dire for those who could not afford to pay for special treatment. From the 1770s, a group of reformers sought to both improve food and sanitation and turn prisons into places of reformation. But progress was slow, and neither the rebuilt Newgate Prison (1782) nor the hulks, which although created as a temporary measure continued in use until 1857, were designed and run on the new principles. Prisoners continued to be able to socialise together and living conditions, particularly on the hulks, remained poor.

The Convict Chapel on board the 'Defence' Hulk at Woolwich, c.1850

LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043-043/3 C.43.3 P.1862

Top Deck of the 'Unité' Hospital Ship, Attached to the Hulks at Woolwich, c.1850

The criminal prisons of London and scenes of prison life by Henry Mayhew and John Binny, published in London by Griffin, Bohn and Company, 1862

LMA Library 21.31 MAY

Criminal Lives Public Events Programme at LMA

The Art of Crime: Convict Art in association with Ikon, Birmingham

Talk and Workshop

13 January, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE Booking essential

An introduction to the making of LMA's 'Criminal Lives' exhibition and the representation of convicts. Pugin, Rowlandson and Hogarth prints from LMA's collections will be on show. Art Historian Linzi Stauvers will discuss the life of transported convict artist, Thomas Bock. (Exhibition at Ikon, Birmingham, 6 December 2017 - 11 March 2018).

Speakers: Dr Larissa Allwork (The University of Sheffield) and Dr Linzi Stauvers (Ikon, Birmingham).

The IHR British History in the Long 18th Century Seminar: Sparing the noose: the penal outcomes of convicts sentenced to death at the Old Bailey, 1730 to 1868.

Talk

24 January, 5.15 - 7.30 pm

FREE Booking essential

A significant and increasing proportion of those sentenced to death at the Old Bailey were 'spared the noose' and instead transported, imprisoned, or given free pardons. This talk explains how the death penalty was gradually abandoned and discusses how, and on what basis, decisions about alternative penal outcomes were made.

Speaker: Professor Bob Shoemaker (The University of Sheffield).

Standing Trial at the 19th century Old Bailey

Talk

27 February, 6 - 7.30 pm

FREE Booking essential

We know a tremendous amount about trials held at the Old Bailey in the 19th century. Exploring this knowledge places flesh on dead bones, puts words in dead mouths, and helps us understand that most dramatic moment when a defendant emerged from the cells to a trial that could lead to exile, death or imprisonment.

Speaker: Professor Tim Hitchcock (the University of Sussex).

Victims and Rogues in the Family? Findmypast Family History Session

Workshop

23 March, 2 - 4 pm

FREE Booking essential

Discover the 'true crime' story in your family tree. Using examples drawn from biographies of convicts, historical records and newspapers, learn how to tell the story of your ancestor's brush with the law, with Aoife O'Connor of Findmypast and the Digital Panopticon project.

Speaker: Aoife O'Connor (The University of Sheffield and Findmypast)

The Newgate Dead

Workshop

14 April, 2 - 4 pm

FREE Booking essential

This workshop explores the coroner's inquests on prisoners who died in Newgate, and opens discussion of the conditions in Newgate. Participants will use the Digital Panopticon website to link up the coroner's inquests with other crime records and reveal more about the biographies of prisoners who died in Newgate.

Speaker: Dr Richard Ward (The University of Exeter).

To book a place at any of these events, please visit the LMA on Eventbrite:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7hr5agl>

To access educational materials for GCSE and AS/A-Level students, please visit the Digital Panopticon website:

https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/The_Digital_Panopticon_for_Schools

To book a schools or group visit, please email: **ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

A London based nineteenth-century crime history walk will be held in association with this exhibition.

Crime and Punishment Walking Tour

Guided Walk

27 March

11 am - 1 pm

£10 Booking essential. See: <https://crimewalk.eventbrite.co.uk>

A walk exploring criminal activities in the City's northern fringes through the sites of 17th century courthouses, 18th century prisons, and 19th century solutions to the punishment of crime. We'll be hearing about some of the more notorious characters who flourished in this area and their fates.

Meet: at LMA.

Guide: John Finn (City Highlights).

WALL K - CONTINUED

Newgate Prison, by James Miller, 1800

LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 4912)

Newgate Prison: Interior Yard, 1809

LMA Metropolitan Print Collection (Collage 318725)

John Howard Visiting and Relieving the Misery of a Prisoner, thought to be after a painting by James Gillray, 1790. Reproduction from hand coloured Lantern Slide by Walter N Henman, [n.d.]

© **The Higgins Bedford, UK (BEDFM 1974.27.1528)**

Reconstructed uniform to a design from Millbank Prison, 2004

Collection of Richard W. Ireland

WALL L - INSIDE THE REFORMED PRISON

From the 1770s, the idea developed that prisons could be used to reform convicts through a strict regime of hard labour, discipline, and forced repentance. Stimulated by the crisis in punishment caused by the outbreak of the American War in 1776, parliament passed the 1779 Penitentiary Act, which authorised the building of national prisons on this model. Although this Act did not lead directly to any new prisons, several nineteenth-century London prisons implemented various combinations of solitary confinement (the 'separate' and 'silent' systems), whereby prisoners were put to hard labour in highly regimented conditions and prevented from talking to each other, even when exercising.

Over the course of the nineteenth century the growing use of solitary confinement prompted increasing concerns about the adverse impact they had on prisoners' mental states, and dissatisfaction with the physical conditions they experienced. Alternative means of punishing and reforming prisoners were continually sought, a process which continues to this day.



Male Convict at Pentonville Prison and Female Convict at Millbank Prison, from photographs by Herbert Watkins, 1862

**LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043-043/3
Pentonville C.43 P.1862**

Reception Ward at Millbank - Convicts Waiting for Inspection by the Medical Officer, [n.d.]

LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043 Millbank C.43 P

Pentonville Prison - view of a cell with hammock and cell door, by George Frederick Sargent, c.1842

LMA Sargent Collection Collage 24629

The chapel on the separate system in Pentonville Prison, [n.d.]

LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043-043/3 Pentonville C.43

Convicts exercising at Pentonville Prison, 1862

LMA Metropolitan Print Collection SC/PZ/IS/01/137

The Suicide of Townley at the Model Prison, Pentonville, 25 Feb 1865

LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043-043/3 Pentonville C.43 P.1865

CASE 3 - INSIDE THE REFORMED PRISON

Canvas Restraint Jacket and Trousers, late nineteenth century

On loan from National Justice Museum

The Workshop Under the 'Silent System' at Millbank Prison, 1862

LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043 Milbank C.43 P

Treadwheel at the House of Correction, Clerkenwell, 1874

LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043 C.43 P. 1874

Waist Belt and Cuffs

Museum of London

'Oakum' made from hemp rope.

The Oakum Shed, Sketches in the Clerkenwell House of Correction from *The Illustrated London News*, 17 January 1874

LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043 C.43 P. 1874

CASE 4 - VICTORIAN EXECUTIONS & ALICE (ANNIE) SULLIVAN

Following the statutory revisions to the 'Bloody Code' of the 1820s and 1830s, the only offence which led to executions in London was murder, at a rate of around six a year. From 1868 executions were conducted inside prisons, with only a few witnesses present, but the public did not lose interest.

Application for the position of executioner, 5 September 1883

LMA Corporation of London, Officers COL/OF/02/062

Execution at Newgate Gaol in the *Illustrated Police News*, 1875

LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 26641)

First tried and convicted at the Old Bailey at the age of 17, Alice Sullivan was convicted of two further thefts by the age of 22. Married by the age of 20 and an 'ironer' by occupation, her literacy skills were described as 'imperfect'. Her later life is difficult to trace owing to her relatively common name and use of aliases.

Report of the trial of Alice Sullivan (17) and Mary Ann Trickett (16), Old Bailey *Proceedings*, August 1873

City of London Sessions CLA/047/LJ/15/02/038, August 1873, p. 381

Middlesex House of Detention Calendar, 6 May 1878

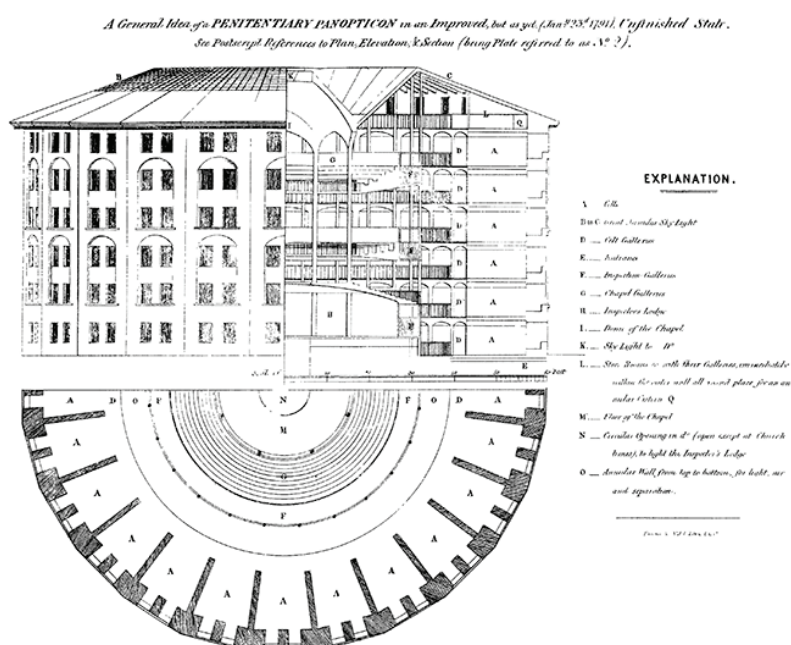
LMA Middlesex Sessions of the Peace: Court in Session MJ/CP/B/025, 9 May 1878

Prison portrait of Annie Sullivan, 6 September 1873

The National Archives, UK (PCOM 2/291/439)

WALL M - THE REFORMED PRISON: IDEAL AND PRACTICE

The ideal of the penitentiary, where prisoners would be reformed through hard labour and penitence under constant supervision, was most clearly set out in the design for a 'Panopticon' devised by the utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham in the 1780s. While the panopticon was never built (a 3D rendering of it can be found on the central column in this room), its central principles of constant surveillance and penitential hard labour were embodied to various degrees in prisons worldwide. In London, these include Cold Bath Fields House of Correction, just 100 metres from LMA (1794); Millbank Prison (1816), where the Tate Britain stands today; Pentonville Prison (1842) on Caledonian Road and still in use; and nearby Holloway Prison (1850), which became women-only in 1903 and closed in 2016.



A General Idea of a Penitentiary Panopticon, drawn by Willey Reveley based on the writings of Jeremy Bentham, 1791
The Works of Jeremy Bentham Vol. IV (1843), pp. 172-3

WALL N - THE REFORMED PRISON

Cold Bath Fields, Clerkenwell by Rudolph Ackermann, 1814

LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 8494)

Millbank Prison Register, 1827

The National Archives, UK (PCOM2/60)

Millbank Prison, view down main corridor, 1885

LMA London County Council Photograph Library (Collage 176598)

Millbank Prison, main passageway with Warden Barnard in doorway, 1885

LMA London County Council Photograph Library (Collage 176595)

WALL O - THE REFORMED PRISON

Ground Plan of the Pentonville Prison for 520 Prisoners on the Separate System, 1844
SC/GL/NOB/C/043-043/3 Pentonville C.43 P.1844

Pentonville Prison, 1920

LMA London County Council Photograph Library (Collage 176568)

A Convict's Home, 1877

LMA From *Street Life in London* by Adolphe Smith and John Thomson (Collage 323126)

WALL P - GUSTAV DORÉ

View of Prisoners Exercising at Newgate Prison, by Gustave Doré, 1872

LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 4920)

WALL Q – CRIMINAL LIVES OF:

LYDIA LLOYD

SARA DURRANT

JOHN EBENEZER MARTIN AND

THOMAS MARTIN



Lydia Lloyd, 1879

The National Archives UK ref. PCOM4/71/6 (image 00001)

WALL S

Touchscreen with Criminal Lives

Digital Panopticon (www.digitalpanopticon.org)

WALL T

3D Rendering of Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon, 2017

Created by Zoe Alker and Nick Webb

WALL U - CONTEMPORARY LEGACIES IN BRITAIN

Historical legacies of criminal lives and punishments resonate throughout twenty-first century British public life. The nineteenth-century approach to punishing and attempting to reform criminals has continued into our own time. Some Victorian prisons including

Pentonville, Wandsworth, Wormwood Scrubs and Brixton are still in use today.

The contemporary system of parole is modelled on the 'ticket of leave' system used in the Australian penal colonies, while the Howard League, which campaigns for the reform of contemporary British prisons, is named after the eighteenth-century prison reformer, John Howard.

Representations of historic imprisonment are also an important part of British popular culture. The architecture of Victorian prisons continues to resonate powerfully in our imagination. Many decommissioned Victorian prisons such as Oxford and Reading have acted as heritage sites for education, culture, tourism, leisure and consumption. The success of television programmes such as *Garrow's Law* (2009-2011) and *Ripper Street* (2012-2016) evidence the British public's ongoing fascination with the media-generated mythology of historic criminal lives.



Artists and Writers in Reading Prison, by Artangel, 2016
Commissioned and produced by Artangel

Why the System is Broken, article from The Howard League website, November 2017
The Howard League (<http://howardleague.org/>)

Incarceration Rate in England and Wales, 2016
Grahame Allen and Chris Watson, 'UK Prison Population Statistics', House of Commons Library, Briefing Paper Number SN/SG/04334, 20 April 2017

The Transports, production poster, 2017
Poster reproduced by kind permission of Matthew Crampton



WALL U - CONTEMPORARY LEGACIES IN AUSTRALIA

For many decades, the transportation era was a taboo subject in Australia, treated as a 'convict stain' on its national identity. However, beginning in 1951 with the opening of the archives of the convict colonies to family historians, interest in a past that relates so directly to people's personal histories has grown dramatically.

The central place that this period now holds in Australian public history was formally institutionalised with the recognition of the Convict Records of Australia in 2007 as part of UNESCO's 'Memory of the World'. This was followed

Pack of Thieves? 52 Port Arthur Lives, by Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Susan Green for the Port Arthur Historic Site, 2001
Reproduced by kind permission of *Pack of Thieves* illustrator, Tom Samek.
Cards are from the private collection of Clare Anderson

by UNESCO granting World Heritage Site status to eleven former Australian penal sites, including Port Arthur and Fremantle, in 2010.

Tensions about the interpretation of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Australian convict history nonetheless remain. The ongoing ferocity of the 'History Wars' is a stark reminder of the challenges of confronting the legacies of the transportation era - from hidden histories of frontier violence to ongoing imbalances in indigenous/non-indigenous imprisonment rates within Australia's criminal justice system.

Wear a bonnet - Living Art Installation, photograph by Josh McDonald, 10 May 2015
Private collection of Christina Henri

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's National Apology, 13 February 2008
Parliament of Australia – Department of Parliamentary Services

Australian incarceration rates published in *The Conversation*, 15 April 2016
The Conversation (<https://theconversation.com/indigenous-incarceration-in-australia-at-a-glance-57821>)

Ikey Mo (Issac Solomons), by Mick Thomas, 2012
Reproduced by kind permission of Mick Thomas (Mushroom Music)

WALL V - CALENDAR OF PRISONERS IN NEWGATE PRISON, 15 JANUARY 1783

LMA Middlesex Gaol Delivery Sessions, January 1783, OB/SR/217

STAIRCASE GALLERY

Watch book for St Sepulchre Holborn, 10-20 January, 1820
P69/SEP/B/116/MS03141/001

John Appleby at Port Arthur Penal Settlement, 1874
Convict portraits, Port Arthur, 1874, National Library of Australia, AU (nla.obj-4270331)

John Appleby's 'Life Archive'
Digital Panopticon (<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org>)

Convict Love Tokens
Timothy Millett Collection

Convicts Embarking at Botany Bay by Thomas Rowlandson, c.1800
State Library of New South Wales, AU (SV/312)

Cold Bath Fields Prison, Cold Bath Square by Augustus Pugin & Thomas Rowlandson, 1808
LMA Metropolitan Print Collection (Collage 322271)

Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey by Thomas Hosmer Shepherd, c.1840
LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 5615)

Smugglerius cast by William Pink, c.1834, after Agostino Carlini (1776)
© **Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK; photographer: Paul Highnam**

Prison hulks moored off Woolwich, c.1856
© **Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust, UK**

Sectional view of the Defence hulk, 1862
© **The British Library Board, UK (6057.i.7)**

Mark Jeffrey (1825-1903)
Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, AU (SD_ILS:613028)

Mark Jeffrey's 'Life Archive'
Digital Panopticon (<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/>)

Interior view of Pentonville Prison by G.E. Sargent, c.1842
LMA Sargent Collection (Collage 24627)

Newgate Prison Chapel by Thomas Rowlandson, 1809
LMA Metropolitan Print Collection (Collage 318779)

Weighing Prisoners, *The Illustrated London News*, 17 January 1874
LMA Noble Collection SC/GL/NOB/C/043 C43 P.1874

Cold Bath Fields, Finsbury 1820
LMA City of London Prints and Drawings Collection (Collage 8491)

Hobart Town Chain Gang by G. Bruce, c.1831
Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, AU (SV*/Conv/1)

Convict Tramway from a sketch by Colonial Mundy (Artist: W. L. Walton, 1852)
W L Crowther Library, Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, AU (SD_ILS:173634)

Etablissement penitenciaire de Port Arthur (Terre de Van Diemen), c.1854
Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, AU (SD_ILS:99603)

A convict being whipped with a cat-o-nine-tails, 1836
State Library of New South Wales, AU (FL3738641)

Criminal Lives: Punishing Old Bailey Convicts, 1780-1925

London Metropolitan Archives, 11 December 2017 - 16 May 2018

Curated by Professor Robert Shoemaker (The University of Sheffield), Professor Tim Hitchcock (The University of Sussex) and Dr Larissa Allwork (The University of Sheffield)

With the London Metropolitan Archives

Exhibition Management	Laurence Ward
Archive & Conservation	Sharon Tuff
Graphic Design	Seamus McKenna
Public Engagement	Jan Pimblett and Tom Furber

The curators and the LMA would like to thank the following:

Individuals, institutions and organisations who contributed material to the exhibition:

Zoe Alker & Nick Webb; Clare Anderson; Artangel, UK; The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, UK; The British Library, UK; The British Museum, UK; *The Conversation*, UK; The Courtauld Gallery, UK; Matthew Crampton; Department of Parliamentary Services, Australia; Anita Dockley; George A. Smathers Libraries, The University of Florida, USA; Christina Henri; The Higgins, UK; The Howard League, UK; Richard W. Ireland; Ben Jackson; Hamish Maxwell-Stewart; Timothy Millett; Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Australia; Museum of London, UK; Mushroom Music, Australia; The National Archives, UK; National Justice Museum, UK; National Library of Australia, Australia; Roar Films, Australia; Royal Academy of Arts, UK; Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust, UK; Tom Samek; State Library Victoria, Australia; Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, Australia; Mick Thomas; Steve Thomas; Victoria & Albert Museum, UK; Imogen Wegman.

Contributors to the public engagement programme:

John Finn and City Highlights, UK; Aoife O'Connor and Findmypast, UK; Linzi Stauvers and Ikon Gallery, UK; Richard Ward, The University of Exeter, UK.

Finally, warm appreciation to Barry Godfrey, Sharon Howard, the AHRC Digital Panopticon team and interns Fiona Milne and Lydia Nicholson.

'Criminal Lives, 1780-1925: Punishing Old Bailey Convicts' is supported by



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